



2000 - 2001 Head Start in Maine

Maine Head Start

Serving Children Birth to 5 Years



Digging In For A Good Start

Quality Programs for Children & Families

More than 4,000 infants, toddlers and preschoolers benefited from Maine's Head Start programs in year 2000-2001. Through partnerships with parents, community members, public schools and child care providers, Head Start programs in the state provided comprehensive early care and education services. Prenatal services were also delivered to pregnant women.

Head Start programs receive funding from both federal and state governments. Since 1985 state funds have supplemented federal funds to expand Head Start to additional eligible children. While many states supplement the federal Head Start program, Maine is one of only a few states whose funding allows for more children to be served. Still there are an estimated 8,780 children, according to census data, eligible for Head Start in Maine but who are not being served because of insufficient funding.



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Child & Family Information

Total Child Enrollment 4,195

Total Families Served 3,872

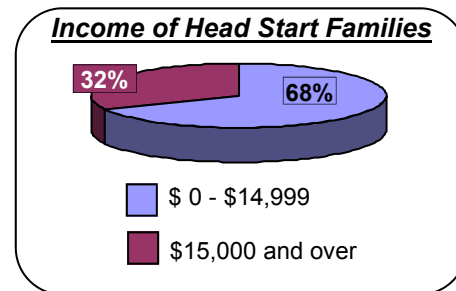
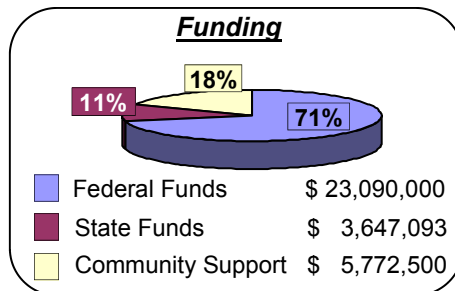
Children served by age group

Under 1 year - 3.5%
 1 - 2 year olds - 6.2%
 3 - 4 year olds - 88.6%
 5 year olds - 1.7%

Other family/child information

families on TANF - 35.5%
 children w/ health insurance - 92.1%

Since its founding in 1965, Head Start has targeted its program to children who live in poverty. In 2002 the federal poverty rate for a family of four was \$18,100 annually. While Federal regulations limit service to 10 percent of the families over the income guidelines, State funds allow a broader interpretation of the income guidelines which bridges the gap for low income working families who also benefit from a "Head Start." Using other funds, such as child care subsidies, parent fees, in-kind donations, Head Start programs provide comprehensive early care and education to children whose families may need child care. A requirement of the federal program is that local programs must match the federal Head Start grant with 20% of non-federal funding. This is accomplished through cash and in-kind donations.



Literacy

All children enrolled in Head Start are provided with Literacy by National Standards.

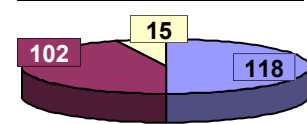
Head Start programs are required to screen and provide on-going assessment of all enrolled children. Outcome measures across the State of Maine demonstrate that all children ages 3 to 5 increased their literacy skills. National FACES Research has shown:

- At the end of the program year, the typical Head Start child possesses specific cognitive and social skills that signify a readiness to learn in kindergarten.
- In kindergarten, Head Start children exceeded the growth expectation of a typical kindergartener. Attendees showed significant gains in vocabulary, letter recognition, writing, and other pre-literacy skills.

Teacher Qualifications

National studies of Early Childhood Programs have shown that teachers with higher education levels are more sensitive and responsive to children's needs. This increased level of education leads to higher quality language activities and higher quality overall programming. Maine Head Start statistics reveal that qualifications for lead teachers with degrees meet the national mandate of at least 50% possessing a degree in the field of Early Childhood Education by September 2003.

Teacher Qualifications



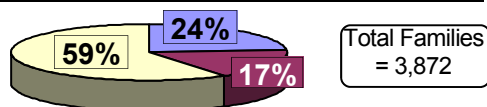
Total Teachers = 235

- Degrees
- CDA credential or State Equivalent
- Staff in CDA Training

Special Services Provided by Head Start

Through the comprehensive services of Head Start, at risk situations faced by children and families are reduced. National studies reveal for every early intervention dollar spent in a quality pre-school setting seven dollars is saved in future costs of decreased grade retention, fewer special education costs, increased employment and fewer teen pregnancies. Greater social competence that is experienced by children and their families is supported by the range of special services provided by Head Start programs.

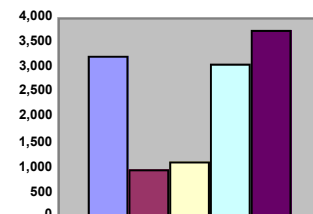
Special Services of Head Start Families



Total Families = 3,872

- Received Emergency/Crisis Assistance
 - 54% mental health
 - 71% food, clothing, shelter
 - 21% child abuse/neglect
 - 11% domestic violence
 - 1% substance abuse prevention/treatment
- Received Adult Ed./GED or Literacy Services
- Received Basic Family Support Services

Medical Services - Total Children 4,195



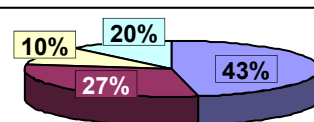
- Completed medical screening
- Receiving treatment
- Completed dental exam
- Needing treatment
- Up to date immunizations

Head Start is the single largest service provider of children with disabilities.

(On average 25% of enrolled children have a diagnosed special need.)

1175 children in the state of Maine are being served for:

- *Speech/language impairments*
- *Non-categorical/developmental delay*
- *Emotional/behavioral disorder*



Total number of children served = 1175

- Speech or language impairments
- Non-categorical/developmental
- Emotional/behavioral disorder
- Other Disabilities

Program Options	Preschool	EHS
Center Based Part Day	58%	0%
Center Based Full Day	24%	17%
Home Based	2%	71%
Center Based Partners	5%	4%
Family CC/HomeStart Partners	3%	4%
Public School Partners-Pre K	8%	4%
TOTAL Funded Enrolled (does not include children participating for a partial year of service)	3,689	332

The vision of the Maine Head Start Director's Association is that: Every family who needs child care will be able to access quality child care in the setting of their choice. Every child and family in need of comprehensive early care and education services will be able to access them.

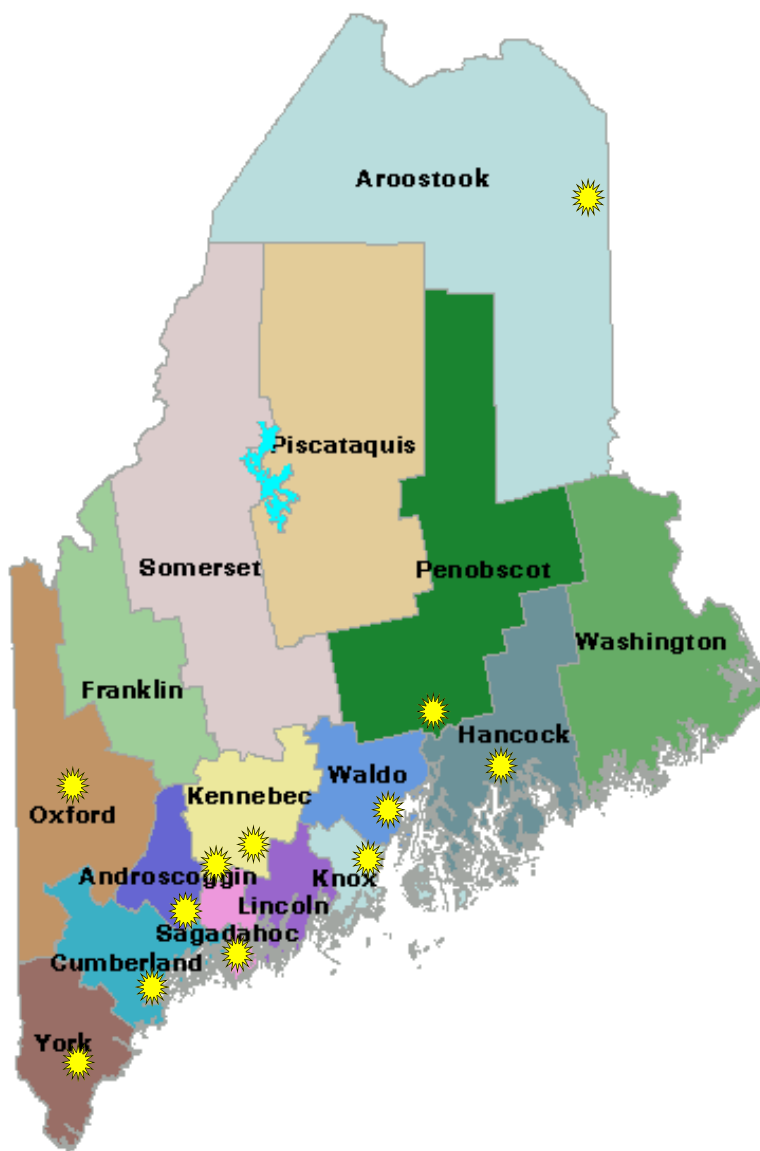
Because Head Start is a community-based program, services are tailored to meet the unique needs of the communities where the service is provided. In some cases Head Start is coupled with child care and other community partners or public school, and is available to children in a center-based full day, year round model. In more rural settings, the Head Start program might be offered in a family's home with a home visitor providing child development activities and support to families.



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Quality Programs for Children & Families



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* Data from their program is not included in this document.

We believe as Maine's Head Start Directors that Head Start sets the highest standards for quality early care and education programs. We value Head Start philosophy which recognizes:

- Parents are the prime educators of their children
- Comprehensive services are necessary for young children and their families
- Community organizations respond best to local needs
- Parents are most effective when empowered
- Staff needs to be supported and developed in their roles as caregivers

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